



Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead, Inc. ♦ 715 11 St. No. Suite 103C ♦ Moorhead, MN

The “W” in Christmas

Source unknown

A father vowed each December to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. He had cut back on nonessential obligation- extensive card writing, endless baking, decoration, and even overspending. Yet still, he found himself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moment, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

His son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six-year-old. For weeks he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." The father didn't have the heart to tell him he'd be working the night of production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, he spoke with his teacher. She assured him there would be dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All the parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, that morning of the dress rehearsal, the father filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the floor of the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, he saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As he waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross legged on the floor. Then each group, one-by-one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as Christmas, he didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment – songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when his son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," he was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row-center stage-held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love".

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, the audience noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proud holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, everyone understood the reason they were there, why we celebrate the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

Something to Think about as we are entering into 2025..

New Opportunities...

Greetings,

Hello, my name is Nichole Sanders, I am the new Executive Director/Volunteer Coordinator for Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead. I was born in Breckenridge, MN but was raised in the Fargo-Moorhead area. I have been blessed with two wonderful children, Brodie (25) and Allie (24). I grew up in a family of five with me being the oldest child. I also have 4 nieces and nephews which keep me busy when we are all together. When my children were younger, I was able to stay home with them and did childcare in our home. After many years later, I moved to Montana in 2010 where I helped a nonprofit animal rescue, as office support and treasure. Later on I started working as a early childhood educator. I worked in that setting for about 6 plus years. In September 2024 I was introduced

to Birthright of Fargo- Moorhead from a wonderful friend. After a long talk the previous Executive Director Laverne Seefeld, I was asked to take over her position, as Executive Director/ Volunteer Coordinator. After being in this position a short time, I am loving it and learning more and more every day. Not only do I help Birthright of Fargo- Moorhead I also help Red River Fur Fixers as their office support and a board member.

I thoroughly enjoy both of my positions and am a very blessed person,

Thank you again

Nichole Sanders



1. Set a goal and make a plan to achieve it. Visualize being successful
2. Choose a small step that you can work on in the two weeks towards that goal.
3. When you have achieved this step, move on to the next step.

Don't Know where to start? Try setting goal to improve a skill or break bad habit or add a good habit. Have Faith ... **YOU CAN DO IT...**

**DO SOMETHING TODAY
THAT YOUR FUTURE
SELF WILL THANK YOU
FOR.....**

HUGE THANK YOU....

- Birthright would like to say THANK YOU to the following Churches:
- St. Andrews Catholic Church of Hawley started a giving tree for Birthright of FM and we received diapers, outfits, baby shampoo and tons of other items.
- St. Elizabeth Catholic Church of Dilworth provided children's clothing, diapers, wipes, lotion, and shampoo.
- Nativity Catholic Church for their support throughout the year. We are so grateful to have the love and support.

THANK YOU!!



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Birthright provides free and
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regardless of age, race, creed,
marital status.

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Reminder

**Please let Families
in need know about
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Call
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Grateful for Ability to serve...

It has been a way of life for me since 2009 when I began volunteering with Birthright which was located in the Moorhead Center Mall - lower level where pregnant mothers and mothers with children would have to descend 19 steps to the Birthright office. That changed when flooding happened in the lower level of the Mall. Then the office moved to its current location in 2012.

Birthright moved into the Clay County Social Services building. Along with the transition I was appointed volunteer Executive Director. Board member Catherine Schwinden secured our funding through joining Giving Hearts Day, our major fund raiser every year. Duane Koble was accountant and kept us up to date. Through these funds and our loyal monthly and yearly donors, we provide the necessary supplies including diapers, formula, baby and infant clothing, and blankets for mothers. We give layettes to expectant mothers.

Over the past 15 years I have been blessed with the opportunity to know and become friends with the many families that Birthright serves. People from around the world and here at home. They have enriched my life by their decision to keep and raise their children and allowing me to be part of their lives.

Perhaps I will mostly miss the interaction with and among the volunteers over the years. We have become friends, and I continue that friendship with them.

How will I spend my time now? I am sure there are other areas where I can volunteer in some way. I am blessed with good health, family, and friends. However, I will always recall my years with Birthright as a very healthy valuable asset in my life.

THANK YOU ALL whom I have come to know and serve. With heartfelt thanks and gratitude, I am blessed. Peace.

Laverne Seefeld

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*Gratitude is the ability to experience life as a gift. It liberates us from the prison of
Self-reoccupation*

John Ortberg



